

Kiltearn – old church and kirkyard

The roofless kirk was to a grand design, with a double forestair on the south gable leading to the former Foulis aisle. Outside in the kirkyard, just beside the North Wall, is a slab bearing an unusual and rich array of symbols of mortality. To the south is a double tablestone, bearing the eagle head of the Munros, the two slabs sharing the central “legs”.

There are memorials to Polish, Canadian and Australian soldiers dating from the World War II.

For more see: www.ect.scot/index.php/projects/the-old-kiltearn-parish-church/2-uncategorised/12-the-old-kiltearn-parish-church; Kiltearn Kirkyard leaflet.



Directions: O ye'll tak' the high road, and I'll tak' the low road, And I'll be in Scotland afore ye. NH616652 and IVXXXX. Park in the car park outside the kirkyard.



Urquhart – church ruins and Old Urquhart kirkyard

Although swathed in ivy, the gables of the kirk of Urquhart and Logie Wester still stand. The north and south walls are partly replaced by burial enclosures. There are several splendid enclosures with sandstone balustrades, and nearly three hundred slabs from the

1600s and 1700s. The earliest dated stone is 1608. Between three and five thousand people attended the

funeral here in 1849 of the famous Free Church minister the Very Rev Dr John MacDonald DD, the “Apostle of the North”.

For more see: www.culbokiect.org/index.asp

Directions: O ye'll tak' the high road, and I'll tak' the low road, And I'll be in Scotland afore ye. NHxxxxxx and IVxxxxx. Park outside the kirkyard.



The Storehouse of Foulis

As the lairds around the Cromarty Firth received much of their rent in grain, each estate had its own granary or giral into which the grain was measured and from which it was exported by sea to southern markets.

Several of these girnals were used for worship when a church was not available, such as the giral at Ferryton Point following the Disruption in 1843. The girnals at Nigg Pier, Ankerville Corner, Invergordon, Ferryton Point and Jemimaville survive as homes. However, the fully restored giral of the Foulis Estate, grade A listed, is the finest remaining example of its kind.



For more see: www.storehouseoffoulis.co.uk/.

Directions: O ye'll tak' the high road, and I'll tak' the low road, And I'll be in Scotland afore ye. . NHxxxxxx and IVxxxxx. Park in the restaurant car park.

Kirkmichael – church, kirkyard and medieval cross display

Rescued from dereliction by the Kirkmichael Trust, the award-winning restoration houses a medieval ornate cross display in the truncated nave, the stones rescued from physical damage and erosion from nearby Cullicudden Old Churchyard and Kirkmichael itself. The buildings originated in the early 1400s. The chancel contains a “doorway” memorial to Urquhart of Braelangwell.

Beside the nave door stands an original arched tomb recess, with central panel inscription carved in 1584. In the kirkyard are the ashlar block tomb of Lady Ardoch, a 17th century Grant of Ardoch mausoleum, a memorial to local best-selling novelist, Jane Duncan, and several medieval crosses.

For more see: Kirkmichael leaflets; www.kirkmichael.info; Tales from Kirkmichael by Dr Jim Mackay

Directions: On the B9163, ½ mile south from Balblair, six miles from Cromarty. NH705658 and IV7 8LQ. Park outside the kirkyard.



Dingwall – St Clements church and kirkyard

At the head of the firth, and once a harbour in its own right, Dingwall has several churches and burial grounds. The parish kirk, dedicated to St Clement, replaced in 1800-1803 a medieval church, a fragment of which still



remains in the kirkyard. The land has been dedicated to Christian worship since the 11th Century and originally formed a peninsula in the wide waters of

the Peffery before the canal was opened. The oldest recognisable carving is on a Class I Pictish stone inside the gateway. There are late-medieval slabs with blackletter inscriptions to the Kemp and Bayne families, and at least one 17th-century memento mori to a Dingwall Dingwall. The Tutor of Kintail and his sons were buried here, and his grandson the first Earl of Cromartie is just outside the gate under the twenty-foot obelisk.

For more see:

<https://dingwallstclements.wordpress.com/>

Directions: O ye'll tak' the high road, and I'll tak' the low road, And I'll be in Scotland afore ye. . NHxxxxxx and IVxxxxx. Park in the adjacent car park.



Cromarty – East Church, Gaelic Chapel and St Regulus

The wealth of the port of Cromarty is reflected in its memorials and kirks. The original parish church, the East Church, has box pews, one incorporating painted panels, and galleries from which the wealthy could view the sermon. It bears an elegant bell-tower. On display is a medieval ornate cross, with long swords and a bible. In the kirkyard are many tablestone memorials, typical of the well-to-do tradesmen and farmers of the town and parish, including several carved by Hugh Miller. On the hill lies the Gaelic Chapel, built in 1783 to house Gaelic speaking workers who had been attracted to work in Cromarty. It is surrounded by hundreds of burial places, including many tablestones erected by farmers and tacksmen. Close by is the burial ground of St Regulus, with the richly ornamented memorial slabs of Cromarty merchants.

For more see: www.eastchurchcromarty.co.uk/; My Little Town of Cromarty by Dr David Alston

Directions: O ye'll tak' the high road, and I'll tak' the low road, And I'll be in Scotland afore ye. Park in the designated car parking areas in town.

